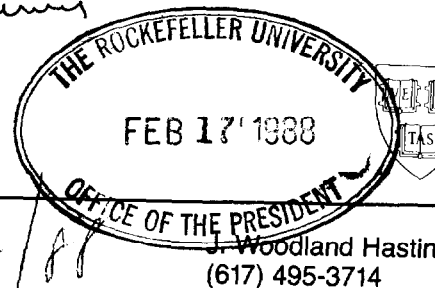


DEPARTMENT OF CELLULAR AND
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Lappunheim



Dear Jack: Thank you for sending me your excellent memoir
of Ed Tatum (he and I were on the first NSF biochem
panel that awarded research grants) and your reminiscences
of the discovery of genetic recombination in bacteria (I
was at that memorable 1946 meeting in Cold Spring Har
I enjoyed reading both reprints.

You ask me about who first developed the
concept that auxotrophy might have resulted from loss
of synthetic competence. I don't know if I can give
a correct answer. Howard Mueller, in his 1943 Harvey
Lectures mentions Twort and Ingram's work on phthiocer
(vitamin K) and the John's bacillus (1912) but also
credits B.C. J.G. Knight (~~1936~~) (MRC, 1936), as does
Anché Dwyer, with giving the first clear expression of
the concept. However, Knight who was a close friend of
mine, and who was with Sir Paul Fildes at the
time, knew very little about genetics. He and
Fildes used to speak of "training" bacteria - (Fildes
was a friend of Huxleywood!)

I enclose a xerox of the first few pages
of Mueller's 1943 Harvey Lecture and also my own
preliminary remarks when I gave a Mueller memorial

lecture in 1972. I don't have a copy of my
1922 papers I & II (J. Biol. 7 309-324, 32
They make interesting reading - especially the
introduction to paper I.

I must say that what we were all
working on before WW II seems very
elementary in these days of molecular
biology!

Sincerely

Ray